

Michelle Hilary  
130 Lancaster Road  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

February 17, 2017

Dear Senators Catherine Osten and Paul Formica and Representative Toni Walker,

My name is Michelle Hilary, and I live in Glastonbury. As a member of your constituency, I am reaching out to you to introduce myself. I am the proud parent of two girls who attend the Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School and are in grades 5 and Pre-K.

My children's education is, and has always been, of the utmost importance to me, for many reasons. I want my children to be successful and lead exciting and fulfilling lives – and in order for this future to occur they need to have a strong education behind them. Beyond education, my children also need to have the opportunity meet, learn with and collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds. I would be hindering my children's growth if they went to school that lacked diversity in social-economics, family structure, cultural background, ethnic background, and abilities.

I recognize that I live in a town with a very strong school system. In fact, my oldest child attended kindergarten at Glastonbury's Buttonball Lane elementary school. While I was very happy with her experience in kindergarten, one item I realized is that she was not interacting with children of different social economic backgrounds (i.e. most of the children came from middle to upper class families) nor did she have any African-American or Hispanic classmates. I chose to move my children into a magnet school because not only will they receive an exceptional education, they are getting the chance to obtain this education with students from diverse backgrounds. Without their opportunity to attend a magnet school, my oldest would not have had a chance to interact with students of diverse social-economic and ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, my youngest (who is bi-racial) would not have had a chance to attend a school where a large number other students look like her.

I am concerned about the lack of funding for magnet schools. My magnet school has received the same funding from the state for five years. As my legislator, I ask you to support my children's school and ensure that magnet schools have the funding they need to be sustained into the future.

I would be more than happy to share my experience with you any time. You can contact me at 860-682-5752.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Hilary', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Hilary